

SELECT PICTURES CORPORATION

©CLL 16735 SYNOPSIS ON "IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"

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(Picturized from George Weston's story - "THE OPEN DOOR")

Mell Marley, a poetic chap given to studying the classics, is cashier in the investment house of Tallboy & Kinder. He gives the messenger \$5,000 to take to the treasury to have changed into gold coins. The messenger never returns and no one believes Mell's story. The bonding company has him tried for embezzlement but the jury gives him a suspended sentence.

Mell becomes a salesman for a typewriter ribbon and carbon concern. But he is completely lacking initiative and does not succeed. One day when he is down to his last few cents, he is passing a pawnbroker when he sees in the window a vest pocket automatic. Mell decides he must have it as a means of helping one solve whatever mysteries there are on the other side.

Fired with the burning desire to own his revolver, Mell goes out and makes enough sales to buy it. Then he goes walking down Riverside Drive, contemplating suicide, when he beholds on a bench an attractive young girl, weeping. She ignores his first offers of assistance but finally thaws out. Then suddenly she faints. Mell quickly takes her to a comfortable boarding house where he secures a doctor and nurse. The doctor announces that Lois is in a run-down condition and needs rest and nourishment.

Mell must needs get money, so he pawns the revolver and sets about his business of selling ribbons and carbons. Lois is greatly worried over her debt to Mell and starts looking for a position as stenographer. For two days she returned wearied and jobless. So Mell hits upon the scheme of giving her something to do. He gets her a typewriter and tells her to write a form letter from the Marley Supply Company, in reference to the Marley typewriter ribbons and carbon paper. Lois suggests that these letters be made more personal and chatty on his own letterhead, and sent to the stenographers themselves, as in this way more supplies can be sold.

Eleven answers are received from the first batch of one hundred letters. Business gradually increases until a book-keeper and two salesmen have been taken on. This expansion has been due principally to the credit extended to Mell by Mr. Blum, manufacturer, who has advanced him supplies. One day when things are going splendidly Mr. Blum walks in - Lois is out at the time - and announces that he has heard from a rival dealer that Mell is a thief, and in that event he must withdraw his credit and insists that their account be settled at once. Mell now feels that everything is lost.

Then the investment house sends Mell a letter reading that the messenger has confessed his theft of the \$5,000 and he is exonerated. When Mell shows the letter to Lois, she starts weeping on his shoulder - which is really no way to conduct a now prosperous business.

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